

Jonathan and the Marine he was with must have sensed immediately what was taking place as they went to the guns quickly and fired a very high volume of automatic weapons fire, undoubtedly killing the suicide driver, but not before he detonated the massive blast that took their lives. His fellow Marines did what Marines have done from the beginning of our history, something they do almost without thinking and always without hesitation—they risked their own lives to save his, but he was already gone to God. Mrs. Pride, because of your son and that other Marine, nearly fifty other American families are not mourning tonight; their sons' lives were saved by two Marines who would not abandon their post even to the point of death.

I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I am sure he was just like every Marine I have known in the three decades and more that I have served. Like my own two sons who are Marines and have served here in this war, I bet he was a good looking young man, fun loving, into sports and a good son—but not perfect—boys never are. He was also different, Mrs. Pride, because he chose to leave the comfortable and safe confines of his home and walk a different path than all the rest. The path he chose led him to be one of the nation's finest, to be a Marine. When he did not have to raise his right hand and swear before his God to serve and protect this nation and its people, he did just that. We all owe him an eternal debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. We also owe you, Tammy, and all who loved him a debt—one that can never be settled.

I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say "what's in it for me," those like your son think of others—not themselves. I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I will never forget him. I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers for the rest of my life.

With deepest sympathy,

Major General John F. Kelly, U.S. Marine Corps, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and clause 9 of rule XXI, I submit the following member request for the RECORD. Funding for this request was contained in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgia National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Georgia Department of Defense, P.O. Box 1970, Marietta, GA 30061.

Description of Request: This request is in support of President Bush's FY '09 budget

submission and provides \$45,000,000 for a National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters and Readiness Center to be constructed at Naval Air Station (NAS) Atlanta. This project is contained in the Army National Guard's Future Years Defense Program, and funding for it is critical to ensure a smooth transition for the Georgia National Guard to NAS Atlanta by 2011.

This facility is required to house all elements of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, and the 118th Personnel Service Detachment of the Georgia Army National Guard. It will also house the headquarters of the Georgia Air National Guard and the multiple departments of the Georgia Department of Defense. The readiness center will provide the necessary administrative, training, and storage areas required to achieve proficiency in required training tasks.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM STIFTER FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Eastern Washington community to celebrate and honor the life of Dr. William Stifter whose work with cardiac patients across our State has saved countless lives.

Dr. Stifter made significant contributions to cardiac care in our State. He personally provided local access to medical care for heart patients in rural communities across Eastern Washington and was a vital force in establishing higher standards for the care of cardiac patients. Bill risked his life for over 17 years driving through dangerous weather and road conditions to bring essential medical care to his patients living in remote parts of Eastern Washington. This dedication to his patients was also demonstrated by his efforts to continually improve the care he provided as a cardiologist.

Dr. Stifter was the first to achieve certification in using computed tomography, CT, in diagnosing and treating heart patients in our region. Without his leadership in this, the diagnostic attributes of the cardiac CT would not have been as readily available to patients in Eastern Washington. He was a leader in advancing cardiac care throughout his career; most recently leading the partnership of Lincoln Hospital, Sacred Heart Medical Center and MedStar towards adoption and implementation of the Level 1 AMI Emergency Program. This program has been recognized as the new standard for emergency treatment of cardiac patients across our State and is being broadly adopted. Because of his passion and leadership, the collaboration recently received a prestigious award from Qualis Health for Excellence in Healthcare Quality.

Bill's remarkable compassion and dedication to his fellow human beings continued through to the end of his life. In a tragic airplane accident in the frigid waters of Lake Chelan, Bill helped others get to safety at the price of his own life. His heroism and personal sacrifice at Lake Chelan are a testament to his integrity

and limitless commitment to helping his fellow human beings in need. He lived and breathed his passion of helping pioneer new standards of care for his patients and finding new ways to save lives up and until, tragically, his own death.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. William Stifter for the tremendous care he showed for all of the people of Eastern Washington. He will be missed.

AMERICORPS NCCC WESTERN REGIONAL CAMPUS GRADUATION 2008

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge 440 amazing young men and women that exemplify hope, dedication, and patriotism. Today, Class XIV graduates from the Western Regional Campus of the AmeriCorps NCCC program in Sacramento, California.

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full time residential national service program conducting national service efforts across the country. This program is truly one of a kind and is an incredibly valuable asset to our nation. These volunteers support the foundation of our country's infrastructure: our educational system, homeland security defenses, and disaster recovery efforts. Their compassion and hope is essential to our civil society.

In a year that saw devastating tornados, catastrophic floods, dangerous wildfires, and continued recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, the Sacramento NCCC campus graduates contributed their hearts and hard work to helping their fellow citizens when those individuals needed it most.

NCCC participants learn invaluable life skills, but even more important, they learn the intangible value of service. How to pass that value along to others as engaging and organizing local volunteers is an essential part of the program's effectiveness.

In the past ten months, the 440 inspiring men and women of the Western Regional Campus have completed more than 350,000 hours of service nationwide. They have shaped lives by spending 30,000 hours tutoring nearly 10,000 elementary school students. They have given hope to those who need it most by assisting more than 46,000 families in the Gulf Coast, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oregon, and by constructing 193 new homes with Habitat for Humanity. They have been on the front lines of disaster relief by responding to 12 wildfires in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. But perhaps most important, they have taught others the tools and value of service, leveraging more than 63,000 volunteers, nearly 150 for each program participant.

Madam Speaker, these young men and women from all across the country are a shining example of the benefits of National Service. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 440 graduates of the Sacramento Western Regional NCCC Campus for their hard work and invaluable service to their country. Congratulations Class XIV!

It is my sincere hope that our country's national service infrastructure will continue to